

**TESTIMONY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INLAND
FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
IN SUPPORT OF L.D. 693**

“An Act To Clarify the Laws Governing Hunting from a Vehicle”

SPONSORED BY: Representative STETKIS of Canaan.

Cosponsored by Senator: DAVIS of Piscataquis and Representatives: HARLOW of Portland, HARRINGTON of Sanford, HILLIARD of Belgrade, LYFORD of Eddington, MASON of Lisbon, NADEAU of Winslow, REED of Carmel, THERIAULT of China.

DATE OF HEARING: March 16, 2017

Good afternoon Senator Cyrway, Representative Duchesne and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. I am Tim Peabody, Deputy Commissioner for the Maine Warden Service at the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, speaking on behalf of the Department, in support of **L.D. 693**.

Under current Maine law a person may not possess a loaded firearm or crossbow in or on a motor vehicle or motorboat, and a person may not shoot from a motor vehicle or motorboat. There are currently several exceptions:

- A person may shoot from a motorboat if that boat is not being propelled by its motor;
- Paraplegics and single and double amputees of the legs may shoot from motor vehicles that are not in motion; and
- A person who is 21 years of age or older and is not otherwise prohibited from possessing a firearm or is 18 years of age or older and under 21 years of age and is on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States or the National Guard or is not otherwise prohibited from carrying a firearm may have in or on a motor vehicle or trailer or other type of vehicle a loaded pistol or revolver.

The Department supports the concept of reviewing this statute and always encourages the safe handling of firearms.

I would be glad to answer any questions at this time or during the work session.